

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 191225Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, NI, US

SUBJECT: US-NIGERIAN DIFFIERENCES ON ANGOLA

1. AFTER A DISCUSSION ON OTHER SUBJECTS JANUARY 17 WITH PAO AND CAO, DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND ANGOLAN PROBLEM:

A. THE US STILL GIVES MINOR ATTENTION AND ATTRIBUTES MINOR IMPORTANCE TO THE REAL CONCERNS OF AFRICAN NATIONS. THIS IS BOTH MORALLY WRONG AND TACTICALLY UNWISE;

B. THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE ANGOLAN WAR IS OF CRITICAL CONCERN TO NIGERIA BECAUSE NIGERIA FORESEES SOUTH AFRICA SETTING UP A BANDA-TYPE REGIME IN ANGOLA IF ITS FRONT-MEN (ANTI-MPLA ELEMENTS) PREVAIL;

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C. IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIETS OR AMERICANS, AFRICAN

NATIONALISM IS SO STRONG AND VITAL THAT THEIR INTERFERENCE CANNOT BE LONG-DOMINANT--GUINEA IS A CASE IN POINT--AND THE CUBANS WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO HAVE THE DESIRE OR CAPABILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER ANGOLA;

D. THE USSR HAS LONG SUPPORTED THE MPLA IN ITS INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS. THE RECENT INCREASE IN THIS AID, AS WELL AS THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, WAS PRIMARILY DUE TO THE BUILDUP OF US ARMS SUPPORT, NOT TO MENTION SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS.

E. NIGERIA CONSIDERS IT NORMAL THAT LEADERS OF AFRICAN STATES WILL ASK ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE PARTIES WHEN THEY ARE IN DESPERATE NEED. NIGERIA WELL REMEMBERS WHEN AND WHY IT HAD TO TURN TO THE RUSSIANS FOR ASSISTANCE DURING THE CIVIL WAR. THIS ASSISTANCE SERVED NIGERIA WELL AND DID NOT RESULT IN A SOVIET-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT.

2. AKINYEMI GAVE PAO THE IMPRESSION OF BELIEVING THAT US POLICY AND ACTIONS ON ANGOLAN ISSUE ARE CRITICAL MATTER OF CONCERN TO FMG AND MAY WELL AFFECT US-NIGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL. PAO OFFERED PROVIDE AKINYEMI SELECTED TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS FROM WASHINGTON RELATIVE TO THE ANGOLAN ISSUE. AKINYEMI SAID THEY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME IF THEY INDICATED "ANY NEW BASIS FOR A DIALOGUE," IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO "SEND THEM FORWARD--WITH MY COMMENTS OF COURSE."

3. COMMENT: AKINYEMI, FORMERLY A WRITER AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, IS BRIGHT AND ARTICULATE YOUNG INTELLECTUAL RECENTLY SELECTED BY FMG TO RESUSCITATE THE FMG-FUNDED NIIA WHICH HAD FALLEN INTO DISREPUTE UNDER PREVIOUS CONTROVERSIAL DIRECTOR. NIIA UNDER AKINYEMI'S DIRECTION HAS BEEN GIVEN THE ROLE OF POLICY-PLANNING THINK-TANK FOR MEA AND HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED. AKINYEMI ACCOMPANIED MUHAMMED TO RECENT OAU SUMMIT; EMBASSY BELIEVES HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF MUHAMMED'S SPEECH, WHICH WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US (LAGOS--UN). WE ARE NOT CLEAR ON HOW HE RELATES TO GARBA AND MUHAMMED PARTICULARLY ON ISSUES WHERE THE LATTER TWO INDIVIDUALS MAY DIFFER. WE HAVE SOME INDICATION THAT GARBA AND AKINYEMI HAVE NOT SEEN EYE TO EYE IN THE ANGOLAN POLICY MATTER.  
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